

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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P R 281535Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY BERLIN
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

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LIMDIS

E O 11652: NA
TAGS: SNAR, WB
SUBJ: BERLIN NARCOTICS PROBLEM: DEA TASK FORCE

REF: USBERLIN 0698 DTG 281530Z MAR 78

1. PARAGRAPH 2 PROVIDES FOR EMBASSY CONCURRENCE AND COMMENT THE
PROPOSED TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE USMISSION TO THE SENATOR FOR
INTERIOR, PER REFTTEL:

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR SENATOR ULRICH:
UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES CONCERNED WITH NARCOTICS MATTERS
HAVE AS YOU KNOW TAKEN A SPECIAL AND ACTIVE INTEREST IN
BERLIN'S HEROIN PROBLEM. THE UNITED STATES DRUG ENFORCE-
MENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA) IN PARTICULAR HAS BEEN WORKING
WITH THE BERLIN POLICE AND CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES. WE HAVE BEEN
GRATIFIED TO NOTE THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE.
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PARAGRAPH.
WE FEEL THAT THE TIME IS RIPE TO TAKE MORE DRAMATIC
AND EFFECTIVE STEPS AND TO TRY IN BERLIN WHAT HAS WORKED
IN THE US AND ELSEWHERE: THE USE OF SPECIALIZED TEAMS
TO SEEK OUT AND ARREST MAJOR TRAFFICKERS. THIS
FORCE APPROACH COMBINES THE EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS OF A
VARIETY OF AGENCIES IN A CONCENTRATED, SHORT-TERM EFFORT.

EACH TEAM WOULD CONSIST OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE POLICE, CUSTOMS, STAATSANWALT, AND DEA. THE POLICE REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE THE TEAM LEADER, WITH CUSTOMS ALSO PLAYING A LEADING ROLE. THE STAATSANWALT REPRESENTATIVE WOULD PROVIDE A DIRECT LINK TO ONE OBJECTIVE OF THE TEAM'S OPERATION - SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION OF THE TRAFFICKER(S). DEA WOULD ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY, DRAWING ON EXTENSIVE US DRUG INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES ELSEWHERE. THE DEA REPRESENTATIVE WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF THE MAJOR TRAFFICKERS. DEA WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEND DEA REPRESENTATIVES TO BERLIN IN SUPPORT OF THREE MIXED TEAMS.

THE TEAM CONCEPT WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO CONCENTRATE POLICE, CUSTOMS AND STAATSANWALT EXPERTISE ON SPECIFIC TARGETS. IT WOULD NOT BE A LONG-TERM PROJECT, BUT RATHER IN THE COURSE OF WEEKS OR SEVERAL MONTHS ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY AND REMOVE A NUMBER OF THE IMPORTANT ORGANIZERS OF HEROIN TRAFFICKING. IF SUCCESSFUL, THE TEAMS WOULD UPSET THE CURRENT HEROIN PATTERN, ENCOURAGE FURTHER ARRESTS, AND RAISE DOUBTS ON THE PART OF THOSE WHO ARE NOW CONVINCED THAT DRUGS CAN ENTER BERLIN WITH RELATIVE IMPUNITY.

THE MIXED TASK FORCE CONCEPT IS NOVEL IN THAT IT REQUIRES A CLOSE IF TEMPORARY WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ITS MEMBERS, ALL OF WHOM ARE CONCERNED WITH DRUG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LAW ENFORCEMENT, BUT WHO NORMALLY WOULD BE WORKING SEPARATELY. WE BELIEVE THAT BUREAUCRATIC DISTINCTIONS NEED NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF FRUITFUL COOPERATION ON WHAT IS A PROBLEM OF MUTUAL CONCERN. A REPRESENTATIVE OF DEA HAS DISCUSSED INFORMALLY THE PROSPECT OF SETTING UP TEAMS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLICE, CUSTOMS, AND THE STAATSANWALT, AND FOUND POSITIVE INTEREST. WE WOULD NOW LIKE TO MOVE AHEAD IF POSSIBLE WITH SETTING UP PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THREE TEAMS. THIS LETTER SERVES TO INDICATE OUR INTEREST IN TRYING THE TEAM CONCEPT AND TO REQUEST YOUR SUPPORT. WE BELIEVE THAT MIXED TEAMS COULD BE IN OPERATION WITHIN A MATTER OF WEEKS. I OR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE US MISSION AND DEA LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING WITH YOU OR MEMBERS OF YOUR OFFICE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL. END TEXT.

3. USCOB CONCURS.
DAVIS

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